IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CRAWFORD In re Appln. Of:

Serial No · 10/734.469

Filed: December 12, 2003 Alternative Method for Sealing All Metal Vacuum Joints

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: DOCKET: KIMBALL, 1002 A. Dunwoody

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Dear Sir

For:

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 3, 2006. The shortened statutory deadline for response is November 3, 2006 and, therefore, no extension is required. In response thereto, please enter the following amendment and consider the following remarks.

AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this response. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this response, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account No. 08-1391.

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Serial No. 10/734,469 Ref: Kimball.1002 Amendment and Response

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 7.

Remarks begin on page 8.

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